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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/613,125	07/07/2003	Kyung-Hun Jang	249/387	7220

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EXAMINER

SHAN, APRIL YING

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2135

DATE MAILED: 10/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/613,125	JANG ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	April Y. Shan	2135	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/20/2003</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-20 have been examined.

Priority

2. Acknowledgement is made of Applicant's claim for foreign priority based on an application filed in Republic of Korea on 06 July 2002.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 5 and 16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 5 recites the limitation "a function of key distribution center". It is unclear whether this is intended to be the same as or different from the "a key distribution center function" recited in claim 1.

Claim 16 recites the limitation "a function of key distribution center". It is unclear whether this is intended to be the same as or different from the "a key distribution center function" recited in claim 12.

Claim 17 recites the limitation "a first group key" on page 23. It is unclear whether this is intended to be the same as or different from the "a key distribution center function" recited in claim 12.

Claim 18 recites the limitation "a first group key" on page 24. It is unclear whether this is intended to be the same as or different from the "a key distribution center function" recited in claim 12.

Any claim not specifically addressed, above, is being rejected as incorporating the deficiencies of a claim upon which it depends.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

5. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

6. Claims 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

With respect to **claims 9-11**, the "computer readable medium," in accordance with Applicant's specification, may be carrier waves. This subject matter is not limited to that which falls within a statutory category of invention because it is not limited to a process, machine, manufacture, or a composition of matter. Instead, it includes a form of energy. Energy does not fall within a statutory category since it is clearly not a series of steps or acts to constitute a process, not a mechanical device or combination of mechanical devices to constitute a machine, not a tangible physical article or object which is some form of matter to be a product and constitute a manufacture, and not a composition of two or more substances to constitute a composition of matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

8. Claims 1-6, 8-10 and 11-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Asokan et al. ("Key agreement in ad hoc networks", Computer Communications, Volume 23, Number 17, 1 November 2000)

As per **claims 1 and 12**, Asokan et al. discloses a cryptographic method/system using dual keys in a wireless local area network (LAN) system, comprising:

(a) generating a first group key in N wireless terminals forming an ad-hoc group (an ad-hoc meeting –e.g. p1, "They would like to set up a wireless network session...for the during of the meeting"), where N is equal to or greater than two (P5, "There are two parties A and B which share a weak secret P" and P6 "We can slightly modify this....to a contributory multi-party protocol") ;

(b) generating a second group key in a main wireless terminal (a leader – e.g. P6) to perform a key distribution center function among the N wireless terminals, and transmitting the second group key to (N-1) sub wireless terminals (P6, "An additional

round will...to pick a common session key and distribute it the members of the group....he shares with them"); and

(c) encoding data using the second group key, and transmitting the encoded data between the N wireless terminals (P4 "In a landmark paper [4], Bellovin and Merrit....encrypted key exchange (EKE) and P5 "But the basic form of the generic protocol remains the same." Inherently, Asokan et al. teaches after the protocol is complete, the multi parties must communicate using the session key (the second group key) to encoding data and transmitting the encoded data among the N wireless terminals since the protocol is using encrypted key exchange (EKE), a well known protocol invented by Bellovin and Merrit disclosed on the P4 of the Asokan et al. reference).

As per **claims 2 and 13**, Asokan et al. discloses a method/system as applied in claims 1 and 12. Asokan et al. further discloses wherein the first group key is generated using a group password of the ad-hoc group (P3, "choosing a fresh password and sharing it among those present in the room, P4 "In a landmark paper [4]....encrypted key exchange (EKE)...derive a strong and P5 "shared key starting from only a weak shared key")

As per **claims 3 and 14**, Asokan et al. discloses a method/system as applied in claims 1 and 12. Asokan et al. further discloses wherein the main wireless terminal encodes the second group key using the first group key, and transmits the encoded

Art Unit: 2135

second group key to the (N-1) wireless terminals (P5, "In step 1 A sends E_a encrypted with the weak secret P....At this point, each player will compute the session key as $K=f(S_a, S_b)$ and P6, "One obvious way....and distribute it to the members of the group using the pairwise session keys he shares with them").

As per **claims 4 and 15**, Asokan et al. discloses a method/system as applied in claims 1 and 12. Asokan et al. further discloses wherein the main wireless terminal is a creator of the ad-hoc group (P 18, "for example,...the leader M_n has a greater say in the final session key...before finding one that leads to a particular type of K" and "In some ad-hoc networks there may already be a natural leader or ordering").

As per **claims 5 and 16**, Asokan et al. discloses a method/system as applied in claims 1 and 12. Asokan et al. further inherently discloses wherein when the main wireless terminal is withdrawn from the ad-hoc group, the main wireless terminal transfers a function of key distribution center to a sub wireless terminal selected from among the (N-1) sub wireless terminals, so that the sub wireless terminal acts as the main wireless terminal (P16, "Therefore, when there is no a.priori leader or ordering...The general approach...This computation can be car- and P17, "ried out...to their distance from the reference value" and P20, "If groups are dynamic, the session key needs to updated when the composition of the group changes").

As per **claim 6**, Asokan et al. discloses a method as applied in claim 1. Asokan et al. further discloses modifying the second group key in the main wireless terminal according to a predetermined modification time period (P5, "session key"- a session key is a key that is just used for one communication session and then discarded), and transmitting the modified second group key to the (N-1) sub wireless terminals (Page 20, "If groups are dynamic, the session key needs to updated when the composition of the group changes").

As per **claims 8 and 17-18**, Asokan et al. discloses a method/system as applied in claims 1 and 12. Asokan et al. further discloses:

if the first group key is created, encoding a second group key request message from one of the (N-1) sub wireless terminals, and transmitting the encoded second group key request message to the main wireless terminal (Page 5, "B extracts E_a , generates R randomly, encrypts it with E_a , and returns it to A in step 2");

decoding the second group key request message, using the first group key, in the main wireless terminal (P5, "The goal of the protocol is for A and B to mutually authenticate each other based on P , and to agree on a strong session key K ... each player will compute the session key as $K=f(S_a, S_b)$ "); and

creating a second group key according to the decoded second group key request message, in the main wireless terminal (P6, "an additional round...he shares with them").

As per **claim 9**, Asokan et al. discloses the claimed method of steps as applied above in claim 1. Therefore, Asokan et al. discloses a computer readable medium having embodied thereon the claimed computer program for carrying out the method of steps.

As per **claim 10**, Asokan et al. discloses the claimed method of steps as applied above in claim 3. Therefore, Asokan et al. discloses a computer readable medium having embodied thereon the claimed computer program for carrying out the method of steps.

As per **claim 11**, Asokan et al. discloses the claimed method of steps as applied above in claim 8. Therefore, Asokan et al. discloses a computer readable medium having embodied thereon the claimed computer program for carrying out the method of steps.

As per **claim 19**, Asokan et al. discloses a system as applied in claim 18. Asokan et al. further discloses wherein the second key management unit modifies the second group key according to a predetermined modification time period (P5, "session key" - a session key is a key that is just used for one communication session and then discarded), and transmits the modified second group key to each of the (N-1) sub wireless terminals (Page 20, "If groups are dynamic, the session key needs to updated when the composition of the group changes").

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit: 2135

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148

USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining

obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

11. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

12. Claims 7 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Asokan et al. as applied to claims 1-6, 8-10 and 11-19 above, further in view of Schneier ("Applied Cryptography" second edition, 1996)

As per **claims 7 and 20**, the difference between the claimed invention and that disclosed in Asokan et al. is the latter does not disclose the claimed feature of the modified second group key is encoded using a non-modified second group key, and

Art Unit: 2135

transmitting the encoded second group key to the (N-1) sub wireless terminals.

However, such missing feature in Asokan et al. is clearly taught section 8.6 Updating keys on page 180, of the aforementioned Schneier reference, the same field endeavor of key management in the network environment. It would have been obvious for a person having ordinary skill in the art to incorporate such well known feature as taught in the Schneier reference into the Asokan et al. method motivated by to provide "an easier solution is to generate a new key from the old key" (Schneier, Section 8.6 on page 180)

Conclusion

13. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Bellovin et al. (US Patent 5,241,599) discloses a cryptographic communication system, which allows two parties, who share a password to bootstrap a computationally secure cryptographic system over an insecure network.

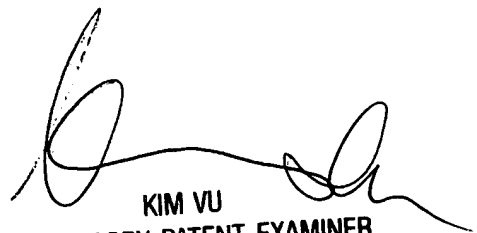
Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to April Y. Shan whose telephone number is (571) 270-1014. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Y. Vu can be reached on (571) 272-3859. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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25 September 2006
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